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24 September 1964



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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE BULLETIN

C U R R E N T I N T E L L I G E N C E
R E L A T I N G T O N A T I O N A L S E C U R I T Y

State Dept. review completed

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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE BULLETIN

24 September 1964

DAILY BRIEF

*South Vietnam: *[Rumblings of discontent with Khanh's leadership continue among the Vietnamese military.]*

[General Khiem, recently relieved as armed forces commander, has told an American official that many Vietnamese officers are becoming increasingly dissatisfied with Khanh because of his apparent complaisance toward Buddhist leader Tri Quang whom they suspect of favoring neutralism. Khiem, claiming that General Minh shares the same reservations about Khanh, said that these officers would not tolerate "giving the country to the Communists."]

[Khiem professed willingness to support Khanh if he turned the premiership over to a "respected civilian," and devoted full attention to leading the military. He warned, however, that if the present drift continued, a "radical solution" would have to be considered.]

[Despite his present lack of a command, Khiem indicated confidence in his continued influence within the military.]

[Against this backdrop of restiveness within the regime,] Viet Cong terrorist and military activity continues on an accelerated scale approaching that of last November following the overthrow of president Diem. Although harassing actions have predominated in the guerrilla activity over the past ten days, an unsuccessful assault on a government outpost south of Saigon by a Viet Cong battalion yesterday may herald larger scale operations.

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NOTES

Spain-US: Madrid is holding up announcement of a joint US-Spanish military exercise set for this fall even though this may result in distorted press accounts of what is actually being planned. This probably does not mean a Spanish withdrawal from the exercise. It probably reflects official pique over the recent sinking of the Spanish freighter Sierra De Aranzazu and a reluctance to disclose participation in the exercise while the anti-US sentiment generated by the controlled press is still strong. The exercise, known as "Steel Pike," calls for the participation of the largest US amphibious task force to be sent across the Atlantic since World War II in a simulated assault with Spanish units against the beaches of southern Spain. [redacted]

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